

### Report of the Honorary Secretary to the 75th Annual meeting of the MSSVD held at the Royal Society of Medicine on 18 October 1996.

During the last year the membership of the Society has continued to increase. There are 28 honorary life members, of whom 18 live in the United Kingdom. The deaths of five members were recorded.

Six ordinary general meetings were held during this year. The Society is grateful to the Royal Society of Medicine for allowing the use of the Barnes Hall. The Society would also like to thank Wellcome, Perstorp Pharma, Janssen-Cilag and Roche for providing financial support during the year.

The Janssen prize for the best paper presented by a doctor in training at the January OGM was awarded to Dr David Nunns of Bolton Sexual Health Centre.

The MSSVD undergraduate prize was awarded to Miss S C Burn of Bristol University Medical School.

The Spring meeting was held in Edinburgh from 9–11 May 1996 and 263 people attended. The Harrison lecture was given by Professor Otto Blekker from the Free University of Amsterdam on the subject of *STD awareness in Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. There were four other keynote addresses, 38 papers presented orally, 61 as posters and 26 as published abstracts. The prize for the best oral presentation was awarded to Dr Nicola Low from King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry. The prize for the best poster was awarded to Dr Colm O'Mahoney from the Countess of Chester Hospital, Chester. The Society is indebted to the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, for helping to make the Spring meeting such a success. The Society is grateful to the pharmaceutical companies who provided generous sponsorship, including Glaxo-Wellcome, Janssen-Cilag, Nycomed, Perstorp Pharma, Pfizer, Pharmacia-Upjohn, Roche, Smithkline-Beecham and Speywood Pharmaceuticals. Support was also gratefully received from Altim, FMI, Reuters and Camden and Islington Health Council.

The fifteenth MSSVD Study Weekend for doctors in training in genitourinary medicine was held at The Leeds Marriott Hotel, Leeds, on 24 and 25 February 1996. Over 148 doctors attended. The meeting was sponsored by Glaxo-Wellcome and Roche, Janssen-Cilag, and the Society is most grateful for their generous financial support.

The Council of the Society gathered for six ordinary and one extraordinary Council meetings. Among the items discussed were the following:

- Special Interest Groups
- Membership of the Federation of Infection Societies
- MSSVD secretariat
- Spring meeting 1998

The extraordinary Council meeting was called principally to announce the election results to the Council. The formation of an HIV special interest group within the Society was also on the agenda.

The Education Sub-committee met several times throughout the year. As is its remit, the sub-committee helped formulate the scientific programme for the incoming year, selected the various prize-winners throughout the year and selected the papers for presentation at the Spring meeting.

*Genitourinary Medicine* continues to be a highly successful journal under the new editorship of Dr Mosen Shahmanesh. Papers covering most aspects of genitourinary and HIV medicine were published during the year.

The MSSVD secretariat has seen many changes since it settled within the Academic Department of the Royal Society of Medicine. The present secretariat officer is Ms Sarah Carney who has just recently taken over from Catherine Barnett who left to work at the Royal College of Nursing. The Academic Department at the Royal Society of Medicine now has Ms Jo Parkinson as its head and I would like to wish her every success in the post. Thanks are also due to Ms Marty Adair, Dr John Green, Mr Howard Croft and other members of staff at the Royal Society of Medicine for their advice over the past year.

I have served four years as Honorary Secretary of the Society and it is now time for me to hand over the reins to a new Honorary Secretary. The past four years, eventful years for me personally, have slipped past rather quickly, and I look back on many changes within the Society. I feel that, because of developments such as the formation of special interest groups, the MSSVD is in a position to become an even more effective academic society ready and able to lead the postgraduate education so necessary for its members. I would especially like to thank Dr J R W Harris, Dr J S Bingham and Dr R Basu Roy, the three Presidents of the Society with whom I have had the pleasure of working. Another special thank you is due to my fellow officers over the past four years Dr M FitzGerald, Dr A McMillan and Dr D Barlow.

I would like to congratulate the new Honorary Secretary, Dr Angela Robinson and the new Honorary Assistant Secretary, Dr Keith Radcliffe and wish them every success.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Society for electing me to the post of Honorary Secretary of the Society, this was a great honour, and for giving me support throughout my years in the post.

Dr T McManus,  
Honorary Secretary, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE, UK.

## BOOK REVIEW

*All titles reviewed here are available from the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE. Prices include postage in the UK and for members of the British Forces Overseas, but overseas customers should add 15% to the value of the order for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a UK bank, or by credit card (Mastercard, Visa, or American Express) stating card number, expiry date, and full name.*

**ABC of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 3rd ed.** By MW ADLER. (Pp 80; £13.95.) 1995. BMJ Publishing Group. ISBN 0 7279 0889 8.

The new edition is clear and well set out, again having an excellent range of colour photographs. Readability has been enhanced by the addition of two new colour diagrams and clinical algorithms.

The angle of the book has assumed a more global viewpoint, making the book's application more useful outside the UK setting, whilst the use of clinical algorithms makes the book of particular interest to those working outside the genitourinary clinic setting. However, the book mainly alludes to clinical practice in the UK; thus it seems at times to fall between two stools.

Although this is a 1996 edition, some points are outdated or contentious, such as yearly cytology for herpes patients, and some of the treatment regimes for gonococcal PID do not adequately cover chlamydia. Discussion of the management of the pregnant patient would have been useful in each chapter.

Overall, the book remains an excellent introduction to the speciality, but seems increasingly aimed at the non specialist, being ideally suited to general practitioners, A and E doctors and those new to the speciality.

SAMEENA AHMED

## NOTICE

**The Third Conference of EUROGEN** will take place in Paris, France, 25–28 March 1997. Information is available from: BAXON, 69/73 Avenue de Général Leclerc, BP 304-92102 Boulogne, France